

Mrs Lisa Ainsworth

On Friday afternoon this week we will say goodbye to our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Lisa Ainsworth. On Friday evening just gone, we had a lovely staff party in the school Hall to celebrate Lisa's amazing nine years with us. The venue was beautifully decorated with an American Hoe Down theme, helped by bunting produced with individual messages of good luck by the children. There was terrific home-cooked food, the Berrywood Busking Band played a wonderful set, a few amusingly constructed games and much dancing until late into the night.

All in all, it was a lovely send-off for a much loved colleague who is deservedly moving into headship. Lisa's legacy will long live on at Berrywood. She is inclusive to the core and has transformed the culture here in her time. The voice that I hear in my head at moments of challenge, complexity and controversy is hers. She has had a such a profound impact on so many colleagues, it will be impossible for us not to feel the benefits of her knowledge, skills and wisdom for many years to come. And so it is overwhelmingly with gratitude and pride that we will bid her farewell, but never forgotten.

Mrs Ainsworth will be on the Year 6 residential until Wednesday this week. Therefore, parents wishing to give her cards, gifts or kind words in person will need to pop in on Thursday or Friday. Our plan, weather permitting, is to have a whole school assembly on the courtyard this Friday morning. And so to news of Mrs Ainsworth replacement as deputy head... the closing date for applications is Monday the 16th October with interviews taking place on Wednesday the 18th. Hopefully, this will herald the beginning of another exciting new chapter at Berrywood.

Fireworks Night – Sunday 5th November - 4.30pm – 6.30pm

One of the big three much loved BSA events of the year is rapidly approaching. As many of you who've been previously will testify, in terms of being spectacular, our display pretty much rivals anything on offer elsewhere in the region!

2000 Tickets for this year's event will soon be on sale, and you will be sent a link to the relevant booking site once they go live. **Please remember that admission is by TICKET ONLY, purchased in advance of Sunday the 5th.** Tickets will not be sold on the day, and sadly, most years we have to turn disappointed people away at the gate. As always, we are very mindful of keeping costs as low as possible.

Adults £8

3-16 year olds £4

Toddlers 0-2 years old are FREE

We have given careful consideration to the entertainment and catering, as follows: -

- Plenty of very low cost mini fun-fair games & activities available between 4.30 – 5.30pm;
- PRE-ORDERED hotdogs available between 4.30 – 5.30pm;
- *Berrywood Market Days* food stalls (lots of baked goodies) available 4.30 – 5.45pm;
- Mulled wine, Hot chocolate, Tea & Coffee available 4.30 – 5.45pm;
- Fizzy drinks and other refreshments available 4.30 – 5.45pm

Between 5.30 – 6.00pm we proudly present... **The Berrywood Busking Band** performing on a specially erected and gloriously lit stage, just for you: -

- *Mamma Mia* (ABBA)
- *Summer of '69* (Bryan Adams)
- *Living on a Prayer* (Bon Jovi)
- *I Will Survive* (Gloria Gaynor)
- *This Love* (Taylor Swift)
- *Sweet Caroline* (Neil Diamond)
- *Firework* (Katy Perry)

Then of course, it is the spectacular fireworks show itself which will launch **shortly after 6.00pm**. All in all, we think you will agree that this represents great family fun brought to you at super value. Please look out for the email providing links to the booking sites to avoid disappointment.

Year 6 Residential

This week our Year 6 pupils are staying at the PGL centre in beautiful Osmington Bay, Weymouth. The weather is set fair, and we know they are going to experience many fantastic opportunities for exciting outdoor activities.

Although being away from your family for this length of time can be a daunting experience for 10-11 year olds, we know that they will be encouraged and cared for well by the staff team travelling with them. Year 6 parents will be kept up to date regularly with pictures and information on our Insta/Facebook feeds... I am reliably informed you will know what this means.

Crossing Patrols

As many of you may know by now, we are once again without a crossing patrol for the Maunsell Way crossing just outside of school. We are obviously very keen that a replacement is found as soon as possible, so if you do know of anyone who may be interested then please pass on this link to them as soon as possible!

[School Crossing Patrol careers | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/school-crossing-patrol-careers)

Many thanks in advance, and fingers crossed that a replacement is swiftly found.

Job Opportunities at Berrywood

We recently posted adverts for two types of vacancy at Berrywood: -

- **Midday Supervisory Assistant (MDSAs)** – this is great opportunity for someone looking for part-time hours. We really need to boost numbers in our team. Working hours are 11.30 – 1.00pm daily.
- **Berries Play Worker** – another great opportunity to work as part of our friendly team. We have vacancies for both our before and after school clubs. Free places for your children at berries come as part of the benefits.

For more information please email office@berrywoodprimary.co.uk and possibly arrange for an informal chat with our business manager, Julie Woolley.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Universal Free School Meals - Year R, 1 & 2 Parents

We really need the support of parents in Year R, 1 and 2...Please, if it is at all possible, can your child **order a school meal this Thursday??**

As strange as it may sound, universal 'free' school meals are far from free, and end up costing schools a substantial amount of money out of our budget each year! The impact of this can be lessened, if, a high number of our infant aged children have a school meal on what is known as CENSUS DAY... You may have noticed that we have historically changed the menu option in order to choose the most popular option of the week on a Census day, this year taking place on Thursday 5th October. For this reason, we will again be changing the options for this week by swapping Wednesday 4th October with Thursday 5th October. All item choices on Thursday's menu, including jacket potato and pudding options, will be offered on Wednesday and options listed for Wednesday will be offered on Thursday. Please note this means that the very popular "Pizza Day" will be Thursday this week!

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Good School Attendance & Reading at Home

Put simply, these are two of the biggest factors in your child's educational success. And the really good news is that this is something that can be positively influenced and achieved, even when there are specific and more complex challenges for some families in this regard.

Best wishes,

Chris Reilly